

MEETING NOTES

NAME OF GROUP: NEBRASKA CAPITOL ENVIRONS COMMISSION

DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING: Thursday, October 26, 2017, 8:00 a.m., Conference Room 214, Lincoln, Nebraska.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Mary Campbell, Christie Dionisopoulos, Ann Post, Jeff Searcy and John Sinclair; (Gene Crump and Karen Nalow absent).

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Ed Zimmer, Stacey Hageman and Teresa McKinstry of the Planning Department; Matt Hansen from the Office of the Capitol Commission; and J.J. Yost from Parks and Recreation.

STATED PURPOSE OF MEETING: Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission Meeting

Chair Jeff Searcy called the meeting to order and acknowledged the posting of the Open Meetings Act in the room.

Searcy then called for a motion approving the minutes of the meeting held September 28, 2017. Motion for approval made by Searcy, seconded by Campbell and carried 4-0: Campbell, Dionisopoulos, Searcy and Sinclair voting 'yes'; Post abstaining; Crump and Nalow absent.

CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS FOR INSTALLATION OF "SMALL CELL" WIRELESS COMMUNICATION ANTENNAE ON REPLACEMENT STREETLIGHT POLES IN THE CAPITOL ENVIRONS DISTRICT, MORE SPECIFICALLY DESCRIBED AS:

A) ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIAL PERMIT 17021 (ASP17021), FOR AN INSTALLATION IN THE VICINITY OF 1417 N STREET (SOUTH SIDE OF N ST. OPPOSITE BENNETT MARTIN CITY LIBRARY);

B) ASP 17023, IN THE VICINITY OF 130 S. 14TH STREET (EAST SIDE OF S. 14TH ST. BETWEEN O AND N STREETS);

C) ASP 17024, IN THE VICINITY OF 144 N. 14TH STREET (EAST SIDE OF N. 14TH ST. BETWEEN O AND P STREETS);

D) ASP 17025, IN THE VICINITY OF 1435 O STREET (SOUTH SIDE OF O ST. BETWEEN 14TH ST. & CENTENNIAL MALL);

E) ASP 17026, IN THE VICINITY OF 1550 O STREET (NORTH SIDE OF O ST. BETWEEN CENTENNIAL MALL AND 16TH STREET, ADJACENT TO DENNEY FEDERAL BUILDING);

F) ASP 17027, IN THE VICINITY OF 1411 Q STREET (SOUTH SIDE OF Q ST. BETWEEN 14TH ST. AND CENTENNIAL MALL);

G) ASP 17042, IN THE VICINITY OF 1561 P STREET (SOUTH SIDE OF P ST. BETWEEN CENTENNIAL MALL AND 16TH ST., ADJACENT TO DENNEY FEDERAL BUILDING)

PUBLIC HEARING:

October 26, 2017

Members present: Campbell, Dionisopoulos, Post, Searcy and Sinclair; Crump and Nalow absent.

Ed Zimmer stated that last month, the commission reviewed some small cell applications from Mobilitie. Kim Egan represents Verizon. He is working closely with the City on a package for small cell street light replacement. These are seven applications from a group of about 40. The ones today are all in the Capitol Environs District. Two were on Centennial Mall when discussions started. None of the ones currently proposed remain on the mall. The two were moved outside the district. Staff is recommending approval of all seven. These are within the district, but not impacting any major corridors. None are on Capitol Square. One application was rejected last month on Capitol Square. It was not a Verizon application. Zimmer inquired if the commission wants to see all applications for small cell or only the sensitive ones on the mall.

Kim Egan has been working on small cell technology for about seven years. These are in around 27 other jurisdictions. Verizon is keen to visual integrity without compromising quality. Verizon has a big stake in Lincoln. Seven out of every ten people in Lincoln use Verizon. This is one of the most unique combined pole proposals in the United States, developed in cooperation with the City. Verizon has a ten year plan. They are filling bandwidth gaps. We plan to do better each time. David Young from Public Works & Utilities is doing a presentation at the Federal Building now regarding these towers. Egan thinks we are on the right track.

Zimmer showed the locations of the proposed cells. This group is all north of the Capitol. The proposed locations are near Foundation Garden, west of the library, the "O" Street block

centered between 14th St. and Centennial Mall, approximately at the Zoo Bar, either side of the Federal Building and one on "Q" St. between 14th St. and Centennial Mall. There were two that were first proposed on Centennial Mall, but those were moved. We are continuing with the staff recommendation from Urban Design Committee and Capitol Environs Commission of last month. We believe the other carrier's shield might be too conspicuous. Mobilite puts a box around all their equipment. Verizon is two radio units. We believe the look is pretty clean. These poles are pretty consistent. They are custom made 35 to 40 feet. Over time, we will have essentially all new poles downtown paid with monthly phone bills. These are located on public right-of-way. There will be lease agreements.

Sinclair asked if LES (Lincoln Electric System) owns the poles. Zimmer believes LES owns all the poles. Egan added that once the pole is permitted and installed for a small cell attachment, it becomes a City asset. Sinclair is assuming that Verizon has rights to access the equipment for maintenance and such. Egan replied he was correct. Other cell companies will most likely come in with their proposals at some point. This is the first go round of applications for Verizon. He thinks the pole design is great. He likes the idea of no banners. They are looking at assets down the road. If companies decide they need mid block at every street, co-location can be investigated along with other options.

Zimmer believes one unique application is on P Street. It is a new installation with radio equipment located in the box. Nebraska Sign Company worked with the applicant. Egan added that is one of the most unique installations they have done. They have met the aesthetic parameters. P Street is an important area. Zimmer stated it is a tricky one to have all the equipment inside a translucent box. Egan believes that is an example to the commitment that Verizon has made to Lincoln.

Searcy appreciate Egan attending today and working with staff.

Campbell questioned if the installations will require any more digging. Egan responded that the best thing about Lincoln is the infrastructure. Most of the infrastructure is already in place. Cooperation has been great. There is far less build and disruption in any other city that they have dealt with. Replacing a pole is a 50 to 100 year deal. It has spare conduits. In the future, there could be boxes for cameras, Christmas tree light plugins or possibly Wi-Fi.

Egan stated that the FCC gives carriers three cubic feet at a certain spot to mount equipment. He loves the antenna design. This design for Lincoln has become the new standard. He thinks it has visual integrity.

Searcy noted that Zimmer has worked on this for months, along with other City staff. He inquired if Zimmer has any reservations. Zimmer stated that the reason we are so cautious on Centennial Mall and around the State Capitol is that it makes you look over and up. Driving "O" Street, he doesn't believe you look up at street lights. On Centennial Mall, you are looking up and down. It is a very clean environment on the mall. Canopy Street has more visual things

happening that make you look up. He thinks the rest of the cells in the Environs District can be achieved without compromising the visual effect.

Post would like further explanation of the comment regarding equipment for cameras. Egan responded that halfway up the pole idea is a mechanism so cameras could be mounted if the City deemed it necessary. There is wiring in the pole already. This would be an add-on. It is unique.

ACTION:

Post moved approval of all the antennae on replacement streetlights poles as proposed, seconded by Campbell and carried 5-0: Campbell, Dionisopoulos, Post, Searcy and Sinclair voting 'yes'; Crump and Nalow absent.

Zimmer would like guidance on future applications of small cell wireless. If we know there will be a pattern and if staff believes we are on the right track, we could do a no material effect. The Planning Director and Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission Chair sign off on the application. He believes these will look very similar to one another. If we run across something that seems to need extra caution, it can be brought for review.

Searcy thinks that sounds like a reasonable approach. Staff will bring everything in a package, but drawing special attention to anything that seems to vary from the norm. The other commissioners agreed.

Egan believes from a carrier perspective, this group has small cell review that is planning driven. We want to know about the P Streets and other sensitive areas. He appreciates the comments and input.

Matt Hansen wondered about the standards as far as density of the number of poles on a street. Zimmer believes we would not install an un-needed street light. We are working within a grid of street light poles. Most poles are eligible for replacement. Hansen's only concern with all these carriers is the lack of pole sharing. Zimmer stated there will be the same number of poles as there is now, but they will have carrier equipment. This is almost all coming in downtown. Mobilite has asked for some scattered sites. Hansen asked if this is density driven. Zimmer stated they are filling in gaps in their network. Walking downtown, you are being handed off from one antenna to another more often. Egan added that they are also working with UNL (University of Nebraska Lincoln) responding to an RFP (Request For Proposal). The game day experience isn't what they want it to be yet.

MISCELLANEOUS:

- Zimmer stated that this year's joint meeting with the Capitol Commission is on Nov. 7, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. At this point, he doesn't believe that the commission will need a separate meeting after the joint meeting. We don't have any items for the agenda yet. He will prepare a draft for the 2017 Annual Report. The Standing Bear monument is a large achievement, along with the Sesquicentennial celebrations and improvements to the mall.

J.J. Yost stated that the up-lighting for the statue was backordered. It is scheduled to be here this week. They hope to have it done in November.

Dionisopoulos inquired if the plan is for the statue to be lit from dusk to dawn. Yost believes there is a sensor that will come on and off. He believes it will go off around 11:00 p.m. Dionisopoulos wondered if Yost feels that 11:00 p.m. is good, or if it would be better to light it at night. Yost responded that if vandalism or graffiti is the concern, they are going to apply a sealant to the wall for protection against graffiti. They will apply it before the weather gets that cold. It will give a little gloss to the finish. They were looking for as flat a finish as possible, but this will allow for the easy removal of graffiti. He will talk with staff about the lighting schedule.

- Searcy would like Hageman to address the Certificate of No Material Effect that was listed in the agenda for today.

Sinclair believes this was for a non-conforming bedroom. He believes it would have gone to Building and Safety for review. Stacey Hageman noted that is how it comes to Planning Dept. for review. This is located at 1538 C Street and it is a substantial renovation on the interior. Sinclair would agree to the No Material Effect. He did point out that without a porch, the entrance becomes non-descript.

- Dionisopoulos stated that this will be her last meeting. She has resigned from the commission as she is moving out of state.

Searcy thanked Dionisopoulos for her years of service with the commission. Everyone wishes her the very best as she and her family head to Wisconsin. All the wonderful things that she has done with the Parks Foundation is greatly appreciated.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 a.m.